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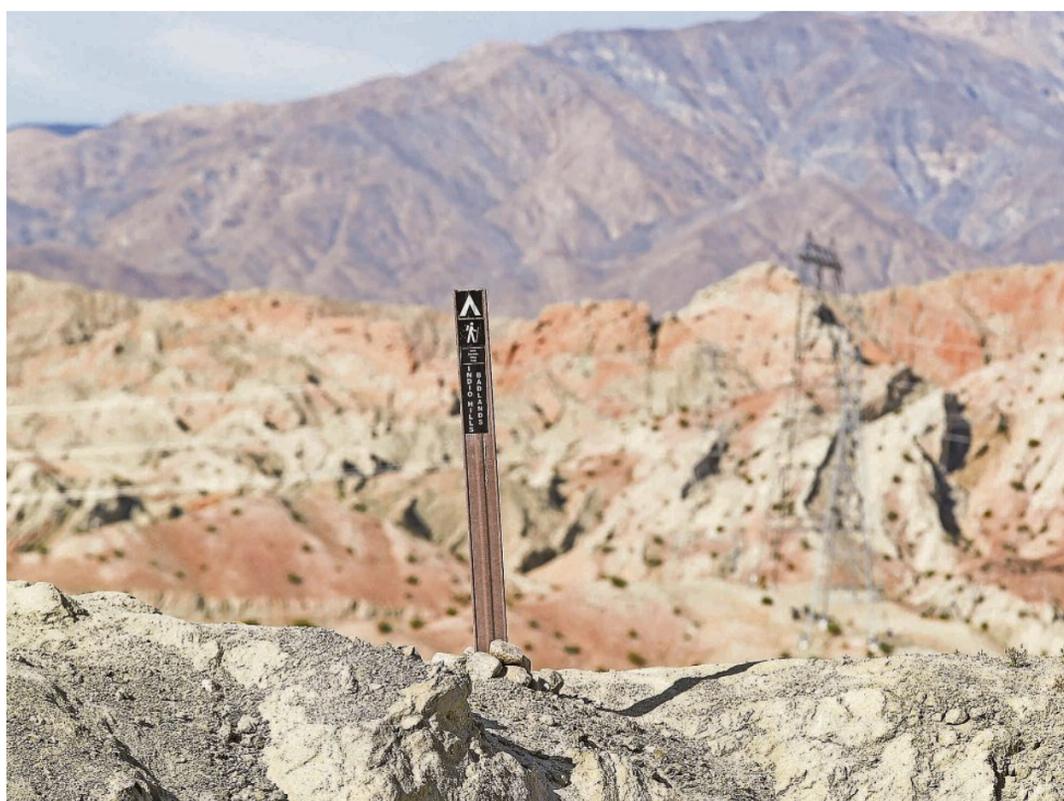
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# The Desert Sun

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Signs guide hikers in the right direction on the Indio Hills Badlands hiking trail in north Indio on March 6, 2020. JAY CALDERON/THE DESERT SUN

## Recent quakes don't make 'Big One' likelier

Scientists say Indio events are not cause for alarm

Sam Morgen Palm Springs Desert Sun | USA TODAY NETWORK

Over the past few days, the Coachella Valley has experienced more than 20 earthquakes, causing concern among some residents.

The magnitude 4.9 quake reported about 12 miles north of Indio the evening of Monday, Jan. 20 was the first moderate sized earthquake to hit the region for some time, after all.

Following many smaller aftershocks, a larger, magnitude 4.3 earthquake woke many residents from their sleep at 12:30 a.m., Wednesday, Jan. 21.

With Californians consistently worried about "The Big One" — the anticipated massive earthquake that is by some measures overdue for the country's West Coast — it's understandable some would be a bit more nervous.

However, experts say the latest moderate earthquakes in Indio are relatively normal for the region. All of the earthquakes following the initial wave have followed the typical aftershock pattern.

"The sequence is kind of operating as you would

**The latest cluster of earthquakes have occurred on a little-known fault line beneath Berdoo Canyon, a backcountry road that leads through Joshua Tree National Park.**

expect, a typical decay after the 4.9," said Kate Scharer, a research geologist with the U.S. Geological Survey. "If you have a 4.9, you might get 10 or so magnitude threes in the next week."

It's not unheard of for earthquakes to retroactively be termed "foreshocks" for the main event. In 1992, the magnitude 7.3 Landers earthquake was preceded

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## Trump says Ukraine deal 'coming soon'

Ukrainian President Zelenskyy: Country living in 'Groundhog Day'

Kim Hjelmggaard  
USA TODAY

President Donald Trump joined world leaders for a signing ceremony in Switzerland on Jan. 22 for his Board of Peace and said it has the potential to be "one of the most consequential bodies," though it wasn't clear what specific function the board will have or under whose authority it might act.

Trump suggested during the presentation that a peace settlement connected to Russia's war in Ukraine was "coming very soon."

Ukrainian officials did not immediately return a request for comment on Trump's assertion.

Shortly before the declaration, Trump and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy held talks in Davos, Switzerland, on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum international summit. The private meeting lasted about an hour, the White House said.

Zelenskyy had said he would travel to Davos only if he could sign agreements with Trump on U.S. security guarantees and postwar reconstruction funding for Ukraine, but there was no indication after the meeting that a breakthrough had been made.

In a Davos address, Zelenskyy compared the situation his country is facing to the movie "Groundhog Day," where the lead character lives the same day over and over again.

"No one wants to live like that," Zelenskyy said, "repeating the same thing for weeks, months, years. And that's how we live now."

Trump's peace board in the Gaza Strip was initially aimed at helping end the two-year war between Israel and Hamas in the Palestinian enclave as well

See **UKRAINE**, Page 5A



President Donald Trump takes part in a charter announcement for his Board of Peace initiative aimed at resolving global conflicts on Jan. 22 in Davos, Switzerland. JONATHAN ERNST/REUTERS

### PALM SPRINGS

## Airport saw record number of passengers in 2025



A record 3.3 million people flew to or from Palm Springs International Airport in 2025.

PROVIDED BY PALM SPRINGS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Sam Morgen  
Palm Springs Desert Sun | USA TODAY NETWORK

A record 3.3 million passengers flew through Palm Springs International Airport in 2025.

The airport announced the record-breaking traffic figures Tuesday, Jan. 20. Last year's passenger count was about 70,000 more than the previous record high, set in 2023.

"We're proud to see more travelers choosing to fly from Palm Springs," Harry Barrett Jr., executive director of aviation, said in a press release. "It reflects the strength of our air service and the convenience of PSP. Every trip that starts here supports local jobs, helps sustain the regional economy, and creates momentum

for expanding nonstop air service that benefits the entire Coachella Valley."

PSP set five monthly records for passengers, including in March, when nearly 500,000 passengers used the airport.

More and more people are choosing to fly in and out of Palm Springs rather than use other, larger facilities, according to the release.

Despite the increase, fewer commercial airplanes took off and landed from the city, meaning airlines are using large planes rather than the small, regional jets that used to be the norm.

The 3.3 million passengers represented a 2.4%

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